



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SETS MEETINGS FOR WORK SESSIONS

The nine members of the Montgomery County Redistricting Commission have set a schedule of meetings for regular work session through November 2001. Additional meetings and/or public hearings may be set as needed.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 16, 2001, at 4:00 p.m. at the Montgomery-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission at 8787 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring. The Commission, along with its staff Robin Ford and Ralph Wilson of the County Council, Edward Lattner, Assistant County Attorney, and Pamela Zorich, Planner with Park and Planning, will review current software to be used in the redistricting process as well as other visuals and resources.

Additionally, the Commission plans to finalize public outreach strategies, discuss the process for submitting and voting on proposed changes, and other business that affects the districting task.

Shirley Small-Rougeau, Commission Chair, reemphasized the Charter criteria for redistricting:

- Equal Population;
- Compactness; and
- Contiguity.

(more...)

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“Other issues we will address,” said redistricting commission chair Shirley Small-Rougeau, “include, but are not limited to respect for natural boundaries such as political subdivisions; keeping each municipality wholly within one district, thus keeping communities intact; and minding the overall variances among districts and avoiding the creation of conflict as much as possible between the various interest groups.

“This Commission is comprised of a group of experienced, knowledgeable, principled and dedicated members who have committed to work together harmoniously while also striving to achieve a plan that is fair and equitable to all County residents. We understand the importance and welcome the involvement of the community at the ground level.”

All meetings will be held in public places with an open invitation to all individuals to attend and participate to the extent possible. The meeting locations will be moved around the County to accommodate such involvement. Meeting notices will appear in the print media and be posted in public places such as libraries, community recreation centers, regional services center and other public facilities. Commissioners will also be available to attend and speak at community meetings and gatherings upon request and reasonable notice.

For information and materials on Redistricting Commission, residents can call Robin Ford at 240-777-9817 or Ralph Wilson at 240-777-7937, and visit the “What’s New” section of the Council web site at www.co.mo.md.us/council/.

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